

Companion Animal Health Foundation report, October 2016

CAHF is continuing to support NZ companion animal research through 2016 with the completion of several projects and the funding of one new project by Allan Bell to investigate the role of delta toxin from *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* in canine dermatitis.

Some of the projects currently underway have been making progress as follows:

- 1) Dr Fiona Hollinshead's project on AMH as a potential predictive marker for fertility in bitches has been completed as was presented in Paris at the International Symposium for Canine and Feline Reproduction (ISCFR) in June. This should be published by the end of the year.
- 2) Dr Arnon Gal's project to compare bone marrow biopsy diagnostic quality for samples taken from different sites is well underway, with samples collected and the histopathology underway now.
- 3) Genetic evaluation in four large dog breeds that have been selected for better Elbow conformation using the NZVA Elbow dysplasia (ED) scheme by Dr Andrew Worth has had the data analysed and is in the process of being written up.
- 4) Alison Stickney's project on comparing the prevalence of FIV in vaccinated vs unvaccinated cats in NZ has collected the samples required and is processing the results with some further PCR testing required to confirm the results.
- 5) Ben Leitch's project on external fixtures has been written up and is to be submitted to NZVJ.
- 6) The Kate Hill/Adam O'Connell investigation into Clinical & biochemistry profiles of NZ working farm dogs has been completed and is being written up for publication.
- 7) Kate Hill's Investigation into the strains multidrug resistant Enterobacteriaceae and *Staphylococcus aureus* that are causing clinical infections in companion animals in NZ has been completed and is being written up for publication.

As you can see, there are a range of veterinarians benefiting from grants provided by the CAHF, from academics to general practitioners. For example, those who are studying towards Massey University's MVM qualification would be potential recipients of grants to go towards funding and completing their dissertation projects, with the assistance of an experienced researcher.

So, if you feel that you can take advantage of the funds available, and what you have in mind ticks all the qualifying criteria set up by the fund (see www.healthypets.org.nz), then please do not hesitate in contacting us to discuss how we can help.

Currently, CAHF funds are sitting fairly stable with payments for completed projects being similar to donations. Regular donations from the Vet Centre Marlborough's memorial scheme and Waikiwi Vets have continued which are greatly appreciated. Pet Doctors has also made a significant donation recently which has helped boost the CAHF funds available for funding projects

These donations make it possible to continue funding veterinary related companion animal research in NZ, but there is so much more that could be done. The CAHF trustees would like to encourage you all to consider ways in which you, your classmates, or your business can contribute to the fund. Some ideas for you to consider:

- 1) Memorial scheme – The Vet Centre Marlborough have a wonderful idea for those special pets or clients in their clinic where a donation is made by the clinic on their behalf, and they will receive a personal thank you from CAHF.
- 2) Business donation from the sales of certain products or services eg Waikiwi Vets makes 6 monthly donations based on the number of euthanasias performed, with a set amount from each euthanasia going towards CAHF
- 3) Annual donation from you and your fellow Massey classmates
- 4) Organise a fundraising event through your workplace or classmates
- 5) A personal donation
- 6) Client donations – CAHF can provide brochures for clients about CAHF with donation details

We greatly appreciate our donors, and would welcome new benefactors to apply these funds to furthering the interests of companion animals in New Zealand.